

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 155338

FOLLOWING REPEAT COLOMBO 2048 ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN JUN 30

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 2048

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UNGA, CE

SUBJ: SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL  
SESSION (UNGASS): GSL POSITION AND OUTLOOK

REF: A) STATE 75525; B) STATE 112992; C) COLOMBO 1686;

D) COLOMBO 1685; E) COLOMBO 1902

1. SUMMARY: SRI LANKA'S PROBABLY APPROACH TO  
7TH UNGASS AND TO EVOLVING INDUSTRIALIZED/DEVELOPING  
NATION RELATIONSHIP WAS SET FORTH IN AMBASSADOR'S  
MAY 26 CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE  
(REFS C AND D). FOR STRONG POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC  
REASONS, SRI LANKA WILL CONTINUE ADHERE CLOSELY

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TO G77 AND NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM). AT SAME  
TIME GSL WILL ADVOCATE MODERATION AND PRAGMATISM  
IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS AND QUALIFIED COOPERATION  
WITH DEVELOPED WORLD. MAJOR FACTOR IS PRIME

MINISTER'S BALANCED FOREIGN POLICY AND INCREASING  
VISIBILITY IN INTERNATIONAL SCENE, WHICH  
RELATES DIRECTLY TO HER KEEN ANTICIPATION OF  
BEING HOST TO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN COLOMBO  
IN AUGUST 1976. RE SPECIFIC ISSUES RAISED  
IN REFS A AND B, GSL POSITIONS ARE AS YET  
NOT CLEAR, AND WE HAVE HAD NO DETAILED RESPONSE  
TO SECRETARY'S MAY ECONOMIC INITIATIVES.  
THIS CABLE GIVES INFORMATION AVAILABLE SO FAR.  
END SUMMARY.

2. IN MAY 26 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR,  
PRIME MINISTER TOLD HIM OF HER DESIRE FOR  
MODERATE, CONSTRUCTIVE, COOPERATIVE  
APPROACH TO 7TH UNGASS AND TO AUGUST 1976  
NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN COLOMBO. SINCE THEN WE  
HAVE CONVEYED SECRETARY'S MAY 15, 28, AND 29  
ECONOMIC INITIATIVES TO SENIOR GSL OFFICIALS  
(REF E). DURING MOST OF JUNE PRIME MINISTER  
AND FINANCE MINISTER N.M. PERERA WERE AWAY.

3. CLEARER ADDITIONAL PERSPECTIVE WE HAVE  
HAD ON GSL APPROACH TO 7TH UNGASS COMES FROM  
GSL OFFICIAL SERVING ON INFORMAL COMMITTEE TO  
PREPARE GSL POSITION FOR SPECIAL SESSION IN  
SEPTEMBER. HE REPORTS THAT SRI LANKA HOPES  
TO SUPPORT MOVES FOR MODERATE, PRAGMATIC  
NEGOTIATIONS ON SPECIFIC ECONOMIC ISSUES  
AND TO HEAD OFF ANOTHER ROUND OF CONFRONTATIONAL  
STYLE ASSAULT BY RADICAL LDCS ON WESTERN DCS .  
HE NOTES GSL RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO COMMONWEALTH  
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS CREATED AT KINGSTON AND  
SAW MERIT IN UK PRIME MINISTER WILSON'S CALL  
FOR PRAGMATIC COMMODITY NEGOTIATIONS. GSL  
HOPES COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS CAN COME FORWARD AT  
EARLY DATE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS SUITABLE FOR  
SUPPORT BY LARGE NUMBER OF COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES  
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AT UNGA SPECIAL SESSION. PM BANDARAIKE,  
ACCORDING TO SAME SOURCE, HAS INSTRUCTED GSL  
OFFICIALS PREPARING SRI LANKA'S POSITION FOR  
UNGASS TO PLACE EMPHASIS ON NEED FOR CONCILIATORY  
AND REALISTIC APPROACH TO ENERGY AND COMMODITY  
PRICE PROBLEMS. PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECHES TO  
ILO ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND GROUP OF 77 MEETING IN  
GENEVA JUNE 10 OFFERED EVIDENCE OF HER INCLINATION  
TOWARD PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS RATHER THAN  
RHETORIC OF CONFRONTATION.

4. GSL THINKING AT THIS TIME REFLECTS FEAR

OF FURTHER JUMP IN OIL PRICES AND DIASPPOINTMENT IN POST-COMMODITY-BOOM PRICE PERFORMANCE OF SRI LANKA'S MAJOR EXPORTS, TEA AND RUBBER. ON OIL ISSUE, GSL OFFICIAL BELIEVES SYMPATHY FOR OPEC HAS DECLINED SUBSTANTIALY, AS SEEN IN RECENT DAKAR G77 MEETING. GSL FEARS THAT ANY INCREASES WILL HIT MSAS MUCH HARDER THAN DC CONSUMERS, A FACT GSL IS GRADUALLY CON- CLUDING OPEC HAS CHOSEN TO IGNORE. ALGERIA'S CONFRONTATION POLITICS ON OIL ISSUE ARE DEPRECATED PRIVATELY HERE. HOWEVER, GSL NEEDS TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH OIL PRODUCERS IN CONTEXT OF ITS ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT FOR LONG-TERM LOANS AND CREDITS AND IN VIEW OF EXPECTED NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT MEETING IN COLOMBO IN AUGUST 1976, A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF WHICH GSL HOPES SOME OIL PRODUCERS WILL PAY FOR. GSL HAS ALSO BEEN DIS- APPOINTED BY UNCTAD-FAO PERFORMANCE ON TEA AND RUBBER PRICE SUPPORT PROPOSALS. AS RESULT, GSL IS CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF TAKING INITIATIVE TO CONSULT WITH TEA PRODUCERS ON POSSIBLE COMMON APPROACH AT UNGASS. FEELING IS THAT CURRENT RELATIVELY BUOYANT TEA PRICES OFFER BETTER BARGAINING POSITION THAN RUBBER, EVEN THOUGH RUBBER MAY BE MORE SERIOUS LONG- TERM PROBLEM.

5. GSL'S UNGA SPECIAL SESSION INFORMAL WORKING TEAM AT THIS TIME IS COMPOSED OF TOP RANKING, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELATIVELY APOLITICAL CIVIL SERVANTS FROM MINISTRIES OF PLANNING AND OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PORTFOLIOS BOTH HELD BY PRIME MINISTER. OTHER MINISTRIES CONCERNED, SUCH AS TRADE AND PLANTATIONS, HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO TAKE LEAD FROM WORKING GROUP, AN ARRANGE- MENT WHICH MAY DILUTE IMPACT OF MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS STRONGLY ENTRENCHED IN THOSE MINISTRIES. EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMALLY TOUCHED ON IDEAS CONTAINED IN STATE 75525 AND 112992 WITH TWO MEMBERS OF GROUP, AND RESPONSE HAS BEEN HIGHLY SATISFACTORY. SECRETARY'S MAY INITIATIVES WILL DOUBTLESSLY BE WELL RECEIVED IN WORKING GROUP. LEFTIST ELEMENTS IN GOVT COALITION, ON OTHER HAND, WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO INSERT NEO-COLONIALIST AND CONFRONTATIONAL THEMES. WE BELIEVE PRIME MINISTER HERSEL WANTS TO MAKE CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION. AFTER GSL WORKING GROUP HAS HAD TIME TO REVIEW US PROPOSALS IN CONTEXT SRI LANKA'S OWN INTERESTS AND AFTER

PM AND FINANCE MINISTER FOCUS ONCE MORE ON  
ECONOMIC MATTERS, FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH  
GSL OFFICIALS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN.  
VAN HOLLEN  
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

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